

March 22, 2012

Good Morning Chair Haines and Members of the House Health Policy Committee

My name is Barbara VanderVeen. I am a retired RN and former State Representative of the 89th<sup>st</sup> District and I am here to testify in support of the pending substitute version of HB 4718. During my tenure as a Representative I was pleased to sponsor legislation regarding oral health care and pleased to be the author and sponsor of HB 4675 which became PA 30, 2004 authorizing the RDH to administer nitrous oxide analgesia and HB 4996 of 2005 which became PA 161, 2005 a bill that removed Medicaid monetary demands and provided a path for the registered dental hygienist to provide preventive oral health care for the under served. I worked with the registered dental hygienists in the state of Michigan and determined their positive impact on our populations. It is clear to me the utilization of the RDH is one of our solutions to health care. If we can keep Michiganders out of the ER and provide preventive care-that is not automatically tied to Medicaid, we are moving in the right direction.

HB 4718 in its' original format asked that a Registered Dental Hygienist be authorized to supervise an assistant as a 2<sup>nd</sup> pair of hands. There was opposition to the supervision aspect of HB 4718. The Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association and the Michigan Dental Association agreed on a substitute which removes supervision from the hygienist and gives it to the supervising dentist. I believe this is an example of bargaining in good faith and commend the efforts of the Michigan Dental Association and the Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association.

The bill, in its' substitute format, provides the RDH with that very necessary "2<sup>nd</sup> pair of hands" that can be critical to efficient effective care. It is clear in Administrative Rule that the definition of second pair of hands is ancillary to the professional providing the actual treatment. The assistant is assigned by the dentist, thereby keeping the dentist as the head of the team . All these facts point in the direction of more quality care for the patient with no increase in scope.

I encourage you to vote yes on this substitute bill. It is good for our state; it is good for our residents; it will provide jobs, and most important will provide preventive oral health care for the residents of Michigan.

Thank you,

Barbara VanderVeen